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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/932,338	08/17/2001	Ramesh Keshavaraj	2013D	4202

7590 08/14/2003  
TERRY T. MOYER  
P.O. Box 1927  
Spartanburg, SC 29304

EXAMINER

ENGLISH, PETER C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3616

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/932,338

Applicant(s)

KESHA VARAJ, RAMESH

Examiner

Peter C. English

Art Unit

3616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 68-76 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 68-76 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4-6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claims 68-76 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 68, at line 12, "panels" should be "panel".

Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

2. Claims 68-76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 68, at lines 11-12, the recitation "at least one of said plural boundary edges...being joined together at seams" is indefinite because it is unclear how one edge can be joined at plural seams. Further, it is unclear what the one edge is joined together with. The examiner suggests: at lines 11-12, change "first and" to "first body panel section and at least one of said plural boundary edges of"; and at line 12, change "seams" to "a seam".

In claim 75, at line 1, the term "said seam" is indefinite because more than one seam has been previously recited. The examiner suggests: at line 1, insert "joining said face panels" before "is".

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3616

4. Claims 68-76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimura et al. '300 (JP 9-175300) or Nishimura et al. '592 (JP 8-230592) in view of Yamaji et al. (US 5,316,337) and Bishop (US 5,520,414).

As shown in Fig. 1, Nishimura et al. '300 discloses an air bag cushion comprising a first body panel 2, a second body panel 3, and a face panel 1. The first body panel 2 has three boundary edges (see Fig. 1) sewn to three boundary edges C1, C2, S2 of the face panel 1. Likewise, the second body panel 3 has three boundary edges (see Fig. 1) sewn to three boundary edges C1, C2, S1 of the face panel 1. The first body panel 2 has boundary edges 2S, 2S sewn to boundary edges 3S, 3S of the second body panel 3. As shown in Figs. 3-5, the face panel 1 can have a number of different shapes.

As shown in Fig. 2, Nishimura et al. '592 discloses an air bag cushion comprising a first body panel 1, a second body panel 2, and a face panel 3. The first body panel 1 has three boundary edges 1S, 1L, 1L sewn to three boundary edges 3S, 3L, 3L of the face panel 3. Likewise, the second body panel 2 has three boundary edges 2S, 2L, 2L sewn to three boundary edges 3S, 3L, 3L of the face panel 3. The first body panel 1 has boundary edges 1L, 1L sewn to boundary edges 2L, 2L of the second body panel 2.

Nishimura et al. '300 and Nishimura et al. '592 both lack a face panel that is square. Yamaji et al. teaches an air bag cushion comprising a face panel 1, and two body panels 3, 4. The face panel has a rectangular shape and is substantially square (see Fig. 1). The body panels 3, 4 have straight boundary edges 5b, 5'b, 6c, 6'c sewn to the straight boundary edges of the face panel 1. Bishop also teaches an air bag cushion with a square face panel having corners F, C1, C1, F (see Fig. 2). At column 4, lines 34-40, Bishop further teaches that an air bag cushion formed from one piece of fabric (such as the ones taught by Yamaji et al. and Bishop) can alternatively be formed of separate sections that are sewn together (such as the ones disclosed by Nishimura et al. '300 and Nishimura et al. '592).

From these teachings of Yamaji et al. and Bishop, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Nishimura et al. '300 or Nishimura et al. '592 by providing the face panel with a square shape in order to simplify the manufacture of the air bag cushion, i.e., it is easier to cut and sew a square shape than a curved shape.

Art Unit: 3616

With respect to claims 74 and 75, as noted above Bishop teaches forming panels from separate pieces that are joined together. Therefore, it would have been obvious to further modify Nishimura et al. '300 or Nishimura et al. '592 by forming the face panel from separated pieces that are joined together because the use of smaller pieces results in less fabric waste during the manufacturing process.

### *Response to Arguments*

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 68-76 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### *Conclusion*

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter C. English whose telephone number is 703-308-1377. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday (7:00 AM - 5:00 PM).

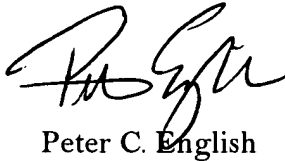
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul N. Dickson can be reached on 703-308-2089. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Application/Control Number: 09/932,338

Page 5

Art Unit: 3616

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter C. English", is written over the typed name. To the right of the signature, the date "8/13/03" is handwritten.

Peter C. English  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3616

pe  
August 13, 2003